

FY03 Annual Report Volunteer Services



Texas Youth Commission

*A man never stands as tall as
when he kneels to help a child.
~Knights of Pythagoras*

A Year of Achievement: An Executive Message

TYC firmly believes community citizens enhance the rehabilitation and treatment of youthful offenders by providing meaningful activities and resources that promote pro-social, educational, emotional, and spiritual growth.

The accomplishments of this past year can be summed up in one word – **relationships**! So many heart-warming stories of success resulted from the relationships between our TYC youth and our community volunteers: Mentors, Tutors, Religious teachers, Advocates. Despite losing one of our largest volunteer teams in the closure of the Hamilton State School, the level of volunteer involvement remained very high with 127,620 hours recorded. Contributions to the agency surpassed all previous years with \$2,377,916 of in-kind and cash donations. Our volunteer rolls remained strong with 1,825 individuals and countless groups and organizations involved.

Our Research Department determined a 4.3% reduction in recidivism resulting from mentoring relationships in our institutions, and an even greater reduction among paroled youth who completed the Houston-based PACE Mentoring Program. While these accomplishments of FY03 have been gratifying, there remain hundreds of young people who desperately need a volunteer mentor assigned to them. A Mentoring Resource Manual was made available to all of our programs and recruitment efforts are being intensified.

The State Volunteer Resource Council accomplished the laborious goal of producing its long-awaited Operations Manual, now used by the 23 community resource councils in the affiliated network! The 2003 Statewide Volunteer Conference drew hundreds of TYC volunteers from around the state and together we learned lessons on teamwork from geese – yes, I said geese! You should have heard us HONK! The annual conference continues to grow in size and zeal. The 20th Anniversary Conference is quickly approaching on April 30th at the Austin Capitol Marriott.

The network of affiliated councils has continued to be very successful in fundraising and resource development. Some of the most notable accomplishments among councils include the establishment of tattoo-removal programs, a marked increase in family involvement activities and support, and expanded aftercare services.

Many TYC facilities experienced significant growth, led by the Corsicana Residential Treatment Center where 61 new volunteers were recruited. Our chaplaincy volunteers remain our largest constituency, representing 54% of all volunteer services performed last year! These volunteers are among the most faithful citizens involved with our agency.

The youth entrusted to TYC performed 181,168 hours of community service in a variety of projects ranging from cleaning up roadways to reading for preschoolers!

The steadfast support of community volunteers makes the accomplishments outlined here possible. The Texas Youth Commission remains indebted to each of you!

Gratefully,

Tammy Vega

Tammy Vega
Manager of Juvenile Correctional Ancillary Services



A volunteer mentors a youth at Vernon Victory Field Correctional Academy. Mentors are assigned an individual youth for a six-month period of time, and meet with their mentee between four to eight hours every month. This relationship makes all the difference!

A youth writes...

"When I came to Corsicana Residential Treatment Center, I was a behavioral problem, always trying to get my needs met in a negative route. Then I received a mentor. He inspires me to continue to do right and get my phases all the time, every time. He comes to see me; he puts a smile on my face."



McFadden Ranch youth explore career opportunities taught by volunteer Michael Schoover, who prepares the young men for the Microsoft A+ Certification test.

TYC volunteers come from all walks of life!

Demographic and contribution report for volunteers who were active during FY 2003(August '02-September '03)

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS ENROLLED	1,825	
HOURS CONTRIBUTED	127,620	
MONETARY VALUE OF VOLUNTEER TIME*	\$2,047,348	
Other In-kind Contributions	\$ 182,304	
Cash Contributions	\$ 152,414	
TOTAL ALL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$ 2,377,916	
CATEGORIES	Volunteers serving TYC Institutions	75%
	Volunteers serving TYC Halfway Houses, Parole Areas	14%
	TYC Employees who also volunteer	4%
AGE BREAKDOWN	Under 21	3%
	21-30	15%
	31-40	13%
	41-50	23%
	51-60	21%
	61-70	13%
	Over 70	7%
	Youngest volunteer	17
	Oldest volunteer	92
	Average age of TYC volunteer	48
GENDER	Female	50%
	Male	45%
MARITAL STATUS	Married	60%
	Single	32%
ETHNICITY	African-American	17%
	Caucasian	61%
	Hispanic	14%

*The Independent Sector organization develops the national average hourly value of volunteer time, derived from the annual President's Economic Report. This figure is based on the average non-agricultural hourly wage from the previous fiscal year, increased 12% to allow for benefits. The U.S. Average Hourly Value of Volunteer Time used by the Texas Youth Commission during our fiscal year 2003 was \$16.05. To obtain additional information about this dollar value figure, contact: Carla Bundy, Independent Sector, 202-467-6134.

At the Evins Regional Juvenile Center in Edinburg, the Community Resource Council provided supplies for the facility's art class; fees, meals and equipment for the youth baseball team; special pizza parties and BBQ's for dormitories that demonstrated exemplary behavior and accomplishments; and sponsored the annual parent-son tamale day.



Victory Field Correctional Academy volunteer Heber Brantley leads a weekly Bible study with the young men residing on Alpha Dorm.

Dr. Chuck Jeffords, TYC Research Director determined.. "The recidivism of the PACE youth was considerably less than that of the control group at all time periods. Thus, being enrolled in the PACE program is positively correlated with success on parole." PACE, a Houston-based mentoring program led by volunteer Steven Holloway, stands for "Proper Self-Esteem, Academics, Character, and Employment."

Comments from a TYC teacher's tutoring progress report...

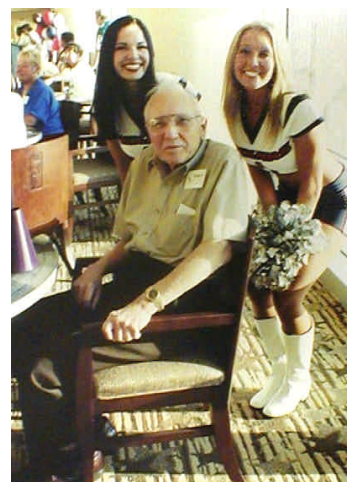
"He has improved tremendously. Was able to finish chapter test in Algebra I successfully. This is a pleasant turn of events..."

Primary Volunteer Initiatives

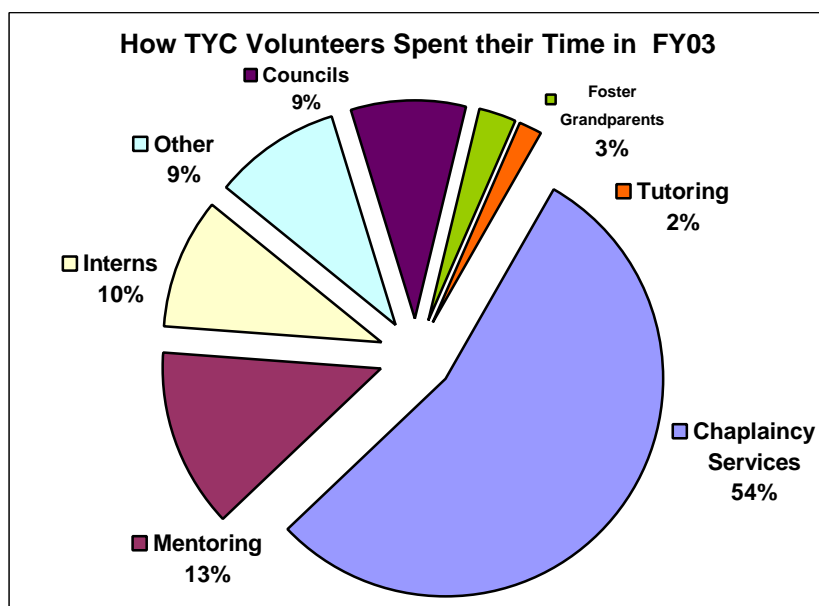
The Texas Youth Commission Community Involvement Program is composed of four primary initiatives: Mentoring, Tutoring, Chaplaincy Services and Community Resource Councils. The goal of mentoring is to develop a trusting, supportive relationship between a mature adult and a carefully matched youth, who is encouraged to reach his/her potential, discover his/her strengths and develop self-confidence. Faith-based mentoring integrates religious and spiritual principles into the relationship. Sponsorship mentoring emphasizes the desire to remain clean and sober of drugs/alcohol while developing a trusting relationship.

Tutors increase academic gain through individualized instruction and encouragement. Volunteers work with students on specific subjects helping them to increase their skills. Chaplaincy volunteers are committed to the spiritual development of TYC youth. Communities work together in a cooperative manner to provide religious services. Last year, volunteers provided group and individual religious studies worship services, pastoral counseling, support groups, music, drama and special events. Ministry groups involved last year include Epiphany, Behind the Wire Ministries, Cross Advantage Ministries, My Friend's House, Bunny Martin and Reaching America's Youth, In the Light Ministries, Faithful Friends, The Messenger Ministry, ExCons for Christ, the Christian Motorcycle Association, Bill Glass Ministries Potter's House and Creative Ministries.

A TYC Caseworker reports...
"One mentored youth's security referrals dropped from 29 to one in a period of three months. In another case, a volunteer has worked with his student for over 17 months. Despite prior failures, the youth earned his GED and was approved for release."



Dr. Edward Garrett, the 2003 recipient of the TYC Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award, enjoys the activities at last year's 19th Annual Statewide Volunteer Conference, in Houston. Volunteers and their guests celebrated their common goal at the Reliant Stadium, home of the Houston Texans.



A TYC Teacher states...
"One Tutor spends three to four hours each week in the classroom. Her students enjoy her encouragement and ability to help them problem-solve. They often mention her and the confidence she inspires in them."

Community Involvement and Partnerships

It has been said, "The act of volunteering is an expression of commitment to the community. The ethic and successful practice of citizen service requires a thoughtful, well-organized match between the interests and motivations of individuals and the real and practical needs of organizations." This statement is demonstrated by the partnerships that exist in TYC facilities and service areas.

Local churches and civic organizations teamed up with the Ror

The Corsicana Community Resource Council hosted quarterly incentive dinners rewarding youth showing progress in TYC's Resocialization Program.

Jackson State Juvenile Correctional Complex in Brownwood to host summer cookouts and holiday parties. A Brownwood hotel reduced its rates for family members of youth to enable visits. The Brownwood Regional Medical Center provided childbirth classes and the Brown County Homemaking Extension Agent taught parenting classes to nine mothers-to-be housed at the Unit. The Corsicana Community Resource Council formed a partnership with the local Highway Clean Up, enabling youth at the Corsicana Residential Treatment Center the opportunity to do community service. The Gainesville Student Support Council formed a partnership with Wal-Mart during its annual Father's Day raffle and generated over \$1,300 and secured a matching grant of \$1,000. Additionally, the Gainesville Council created "Voices Across the Ages" a program where TYC youth record books on tape for Head Start children.

The West Texas State School in Pyote formed a partnership with the Legal Assistants Association of Permian Basin that resulted in monthly birthday recognition for youth. The local chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving taught West Texas youth the consequences of drinking and driving. The San Saba State School maintained its partnership with the Fort Hood Army Base involving soldiers who provide a Fall Festival, Christmas parties, and allow TYC youth to attend the All-Military Basketball Tournament at the base.

At the McLennan County State Juvenile Correctional Facility in Mart, a military referral program in partnership with Army and Marine recruiters resulted in five students joining the military. The facility implemented Foster Grandparenting last year, and partnered with the Doris Miller Elementary School where TYC youth perform community service. The Vernon Community Resource Council gained inclusion as an approved charity in the State Employee Charitable Campaign, generating over \$1500 last year. At Schaeffer Halfway House, Project Dismas brought federal offenders to share life lessons with juvenile offenders. The Fort Worth Community Resource Council funded a Garden Project at McFadden Ranch, and installed electricity and a sprinkler system in the green house. They developed the Keller Fire Department community service site, where youth wash fire trucks twice monthly while they learn about fire safety, CPR, and First Aid. Firemen serve as role models youth on parole.

TYC facilities provided 623 tours last year to "at-risk" youth, colleges, universities, probation departments, contract placement facilities, judicial visitors, parole officers, churches and school districts. Through tours, speaker engagements, and training sessions, nearly 25,000 Texas citizens were educated.

Looking Forward

The Texas Youth Commission's strives for excellence as we enable community volunteers to provide well-planned and meaningful services to youth in our care. We are confident that our volunteers are aiding TYC in achieving our organizational mission to rehabilitate youthful offenders. Our volunteers have assisted TYC in expanding its organizational capability, improving community relations, enhancing service quality and most importantly, in making a difference in the lives of thousands of youth.



A student from the Ron Jackson State Juvenile Correctional Complex in Brownwood explains the 16-hour structured day schedule to Junior ROTC Cadets and their sponsors during their annual tour of the facility.

*A TYC Caseworker notes...
"Youth that attend chaplaincy service on a regular basis communicate better with staff, have better attitudes, accept feedback better and participate more openly in group sessions. This is evident by group notes and staff feedback."*

The Dallas Community Resource Council developed a recruitment brochure as they focused efforts on increasing the size of their nonprofit organization. They supported the TYC youth in Dallas with school clothes, sponsoring special events, providing needed identification cards, supplementing college funds, and supplying furniture to Independent Living youth.

The Houston Council helped families have a festive holiday season, hosted the annual Educational Awards Banquet, aided youth in Independent Living, and hosted last year's volunteer conference.

Special thanks to Melissa Burney and Jean Bice who made this report possible!